

## **Minutes Housing and Social Service Programs Council Committee February 14, 2012**

Minutes of the Housing and Social Service Programs Council Committee meeting held on Tuesday, February 14, 2012, at 3:00 p.m., in the 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor Conference Room, Tempe City Hall, 31 E. 5<sup>th</sup> Street, Tempe, Arizona.

### **Committee Member Present:**

Councilmember Corey D. Woods, Chair

### **City Staff Present:**

Kay Savard, Deputy City Clerk

Theresa James, Homeless Coordinator

Shelley Hearn, Community Relations Administrator

Craig Hittie, Housing Services Supervisor

Liz Chavez, Housing Services Manager

Amber Wakeman, Assistant to the City Council

Larry Schmalz, Principal Planner

Kris Baxter-Ging, Community Outreach/Marketing Coordinator II

Naomi Farrell, Deputy Comm. Svcs. Director – Social Svcs.

### **Guests Present:**

Kate Hanley, Executive Director, Tempe Community Council (TCC)

Beth Fiorenza, Executive Director, Tempe Community Action Agency (TCAA)

Steven Sparks, Director of Operations, (TCAA)

Ashley Simpson

Lauren Schumann

Kristin Godwin

Alexander Rhodes

Helen Welker

Joshua A. DeRusha

**Councilmember Woods called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m.**

### **Agenda Item 1 – Public Appearances**

None.

### **Agenda Item 2 – Review of Minutes**

The December 13, 2011 meeting minutes were accepted.

### **Agenda Item 4 – Agency Allocation**

Councilmember Woods requested that agenda item 4 be presented first. Kate Hanley, Executive Director, Tempe Community Council (TCC), provided an update on agency allocation. Presentation and discussion highlights include:

- Agency allocation funding has shifted over time
  - Fiscal Year (FY) 2009-2010 human service funding was reduced by the amount of the supplemental; a significant reduction from FY 2008-2009.
  - Homeless, domestic violence victims and working poor were cited as basic needs categories. Youth, seniors and disabled individuals are additional needs categories. Many of the services for seniors and disabled individuals could also be included in the basic needs.

Homeless, Domestic Violence, Working Poor		Youth, Senior, Disability
FY 2009-2010	• 57% of the budget	• 42% of the budget
FY 2010-2011	• 65% of the budget	• 35% of the budget
FY 2011-2012	• 66% of the budget	• 34% of the budget

- Allocations shifted towards basic needs as the economy began to falter.
- FY 2008-2009 – \$100,000 in supplemental funding was eliminated.
- FY 2010-2011 – no longer received Seized Assets for Community Action (SACA) funds for youth programs.
- Community and departmental surveys indicate youth is a priority.
- Poverty statistics data is collected by the American Community Survey (ACS) comparing 1-year, 3-year and 5-year data. ACS collects data annually; smaller sample size; less reliable than the three and five year census data.
- TCC is looking for data trends within the community. The data is helpful in understanding that many people in the community are struggling and still have needs.
- Community Relations staff was thanked for their assistance in providing public information.

### **Agenda Item 3 – Poverty Data Update**

Beth Fiorenza, Executive Director, Tempe Community Action Agency (TCAA) and Steven Sparks, Director of Operations, TCAA, provided a poverty data update. Presentation and discussion highlights include:

- Used census data estimates for years 2007 – 2009.
- Poverty information reflects 2010 data released by the Census Bureau in September 2011.
- Federal poverty guideline for a family of four is \$22,350.
- Tempe's population is 161,719.
- The census indicates that 38% of children under the age of 18 are below the poverty level in Tempe; approximately 10,000 children.
- Percentages of children living in poverty within the Kyrene and Tempe Elementary school districts has risen 36%.
- Poverty – Individuals total approximately 40,000 within Tempe. Approximately 16% of Tempe's population does not have health insurance.
- Poverty – Adults over 65 total 3% of Tempe's population. This is a growing population in the community. Services and volunteerism are being looked at differently.
- Tempe Housing – One indicator of poverty is how many people pay 30% or more for their housing costs; 55% of housing units in Tempe are renter occupied; 31% of homeowners pay 30% or more and 56% of renters are paying 30% or more for their housing costs in Tempe. The average rent in Tempe has increased from \$806 in 2003 to \$936 in 2011 for a two-bedroom apartment.
- Hunger – Arizona is the 7<sup>th</sup> worst state in food hardships for children. A March 2011 report from the Arizona Department of Education regarding free and reduced lunch percentages: Tempe Elementary School District 73%, Tempe Union High School District 62%, Kyrene Elementary School District 27%. TCAA's food pantry has experienced a 30% increase in the number of families seeking assistance over the past two years.
- Opportunity – Job creation, career center at Escalante, health participants, guests that are in the shelter program, and the community garden providing food education to Thew Elementary students.
- Average rents are increasing due to the amount foreclosed of homes.
- Approximately 14,000 Tempe residents are enrolled in a professional undergraduate or graduate degree program; about 9.4% are below the poverty level.
- Staff has contacted the Arizona State University (ASU) Real Estate Department regarding rental units and developments and discussed the need to address various populations, including senior citizens, apartments along the light rail line, and student housing. There are approximately 45,000 new units that will soon be available; without these new units, housing rates would continue to rise.

**Agenda Item 5 – 2010-2011 Action Plan Amendment**

Larry Schmalz, Principal Planner, provided an update on the 2010-2011 Action Plan Amendment. Presentation and discussion highlights include:

- Staff is proposing that existing funding be reallocated to better support goals of acquisition and rehabilitation from the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds to the HOME funds and the Store Front program. This proposal will be presented to City Council.
- HOME funds total approximately \$240,000 and would be used to acquire and rehabilitate four affordable single family homes. Funding would also be used to rehabilitate store fronts for aging strip centers; staff is working with the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) to finalize details.
- To determine affordable housing, HUD takes into account the family size, number of bedrooms in the unit, fair market rent, income limits per household; 30% of the family income towards paying a mortgage or rent is considered affordable.
- HOME funds are part of the City's rehabilitation funds; converting funding to acquisition and rehabilitation; the Store Front Program fund was contingency and contract funding that was not used.
- There is a website for public comments that will be available until February 27, 2012.
- Staff will present a resolution to City Council at the March 8, 2012 Formal Council Meeting.

**Agenda Item 6 – Update- Draft Section 8 Public Housing Agency (PHA) Plan for FY2012-2013**

Liz Chavez, Housing Services Manager, provided an update on the Draft Section 8 Public Housing Agency (PHA) Plan for FY 2012-2013. Presentation and discussion highlights include:

- The PHA Plan is part of the Section 8 Program and part of a five year plan submitted three years ago to the Federal Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). The City is mandated to provide this annual plan to HUD to inform their agency how funds will be spent and program changes that may occur. HUD reviews this plan thoroughly; funding needs to be clearly defined. There are few changes for the next fiscal year.
- The City is required to provide a public comment period from February 6, 2012 through March 24, 2012. Plan changes need to be made before the Council adopts the PHA Plan.
- The PHA Plan has been presented to the Housing Council Board.
- Plan changes include:
  - Updated utility allowances (impacts the amount families pay under the Section 8 Program)
  - Decreased payment standards (fair market rents)
  - Project-Based Voucher Program (working on an agreement with Apache ASL Trails II)
  - Funding sources, affordable housing activities, updates, goals and objectives
- Tempe continues to be a high performer; this has been challenging over the past six to eight years due to budget resources.
- Staff has been effective in providing program outcomes.
- If Tempe is not ranked as a high performer, funding will be cut. Tempe scored 100%; information is monitored and submitted to HUD on a weekly/monthly basis; audits are required at the end of the year.
- Staff will present the PHA Plan to City Council for adoption in April; the Plan will then be submitted to HUD.
- The decrease for the payment standard was nationwide. The utility allowance impact is minimal.

**Agenda Item 7- List of Committee Accomplishments/Progress**

Amber Wakeman, Assistant to the City Council, provided an update on Committee Accomplishments/Progress. Presentation and discussion highlights include:

- Committee members were thanked for their contributions.
- Council Committees may be reconfigured. It is important to track items that need additional work.
- Tempe is a progressive, forward thinking city that works on addressing the needs of the community. In this economy, many people have challenges with housing, being unemployed or underemployed. The Committee is working on critical and vital issues.
- Work Plan wording revision to item 3:
  - (3) Oversee services targeted at assisting homeless individuals and families to obtain permanent, affordable housing.

- Support and execution of **Permanent Supportive Housing** and support of fundraising to continue program beyond grant.

**Agenda Item 8 – Future Agenda Items**

- Shared Living update
- Legislative priorities
- Permanent Supportive Housing Program update
- FY 2012-2013 Annual Action Plan
- Neighborhood Revitalization
  - Concert to End Homelessness
  - Valley of the Sun United Way Team

**Agenda Item 9 – Future Meeting Date**

The next meeting is scheduled for March 20, 2012 at 3:00 p.m.

**Agenda Item 10 – Announcements**

- Every Wednesday night in February and Saturdays through April 16<sup>th</sup>, 2012, free tax preparation and financial education is available at Tempe Schools Credit Union on Mill Avenue.
- Tempe Bowls event is February 17 and 18, 2012.
- The Valley Interfaith Project organization was thanked for hosting a candidate forum for the Mayor and Council candidates.

**The meeting adjourned at 3:53 p.m.**

Reviewed by Amber Wakeman, Assistant to City Council

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Kay Savard, Deputy City Clerk